

CITY OF BURNABY  
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

G

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: 2004 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Social Issues Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2004 March 24, received and adopted the *attached* report providing a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2003 and an outline of proposed activities for 2004. 2003 activities included accessibility renovations to City facilities and participation in Access Awareness Day. Priorities for 2004 include coordination of access renovations for City facilities, participation in a review of accessible housing guidelines and requirements, and monitoring of accessible transportation service delivery.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor L. Rankin  
Vice Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Member

COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING  
- DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES  
- DIRECTOR FINANCE  
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
- OIC, RCMP

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

2004 March 17

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

OUR FILE: 1750-20

SUBJECT: 2004 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2003 and an outline of its proposed activities for 2004.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** this report be received for information.

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Burnaby Access Advisory Committee (BAAC) was established in 1988. The Committee is comprised of persons with disabilities who are residents of Burnaby, representatives of disabled persons' organizations and City staff. The Committee assists Planning Department staff to research and develop proposals to improve access in Burnaby for persons with disabilities.

Since its establishment, the Committee has participated in a number of initiatives directed towards the improvement of private and public services and facilities to better accommodate persons with disabilities. Those initiatives have included:

- the Metrotown Access Review;
- production of three editions of the Burnaby Access Guidebook;
- amendments to Burnaby's Zoning Bylaw to specify requirements for designated parking spaces, and regulations regarding the posting and enforcement of designated parking spaces, as well as public awareness activities about the regulations;
- assisting in identifying locations for audible pedestrian traffic signals to assist persons who are visually impaired;
- an inventory of required accessibility renovations to City facilities and annual prioritization of renovations to be carried out;
- draft adaptable housing guidelines; and
- Access Awareness Week/Day events.

Each year, BAAC develops a workplan. This report describes the Committee's 2003 activities and outlines a broad range of proposed activities for BAAC's possible attention in 2004.

## 2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2003 ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 Accessibility Renovations to City Facilities

In the 2003 Capital Budget, \$50,000 was allocated for access renovations to city facilities. The Access Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, helped to establish the priority list for City facilities requiring accessibility modifications. Accessibility renovations were completed at four City facilities during 2003 as follows:

#### **Bonsor Recreation Centre:**

- provision of automatic doors from the main foyer into the pool area

#### **Confederation Community Centre:**

- provision of two additional designated parking stalls
- upgrading of parking signage and painting of curbs

#### **Central Park Pool:**

- installation of a fully accessible unisex washroom/changeroom/shower

#### **Burnaby Lake Arena:**

- provision of automatic doors between Burnaby Lake Arena and Bill Copeland Sports Centre.

### 2.2 Access Awareness Day

To complement a province-wide initiative of the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. (SPARC BC) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and at the request of BAAC, Burnaby City Council proclaimed Saturday, June 7 as Access Awareness Day in Burnaby. Recognizing that Access Awareness Day coincided with Hats Off Day in north Burnaby, the Committee successfully encouraged the parade organizers to set aside a designated parking and pick-up/drop-off area for people with disabilities.

In addition, the Committee coordinated the installation of posters on accessibility in recreation centres, libraries, City Hall and other City-owned facilities. It also prepared an article on accessibility that was featured in the Burnaby Now. Large bus shelter advertisements that were developed five years ago were used again to advertise access awareness on nine bus shelters around the city for the month of August.

### **2.3 Other**

During 2003, the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee continued to monitor needs for audible traffic signals, curb cuts, TTY telephones (teletype technology for the hearing impaired) or alternative technology, and sidewalk improvements. Committee members were also involved in the following activities:

- meeting with and providing suggestions to community liaison representatives of TransLink on ways to improve accessibility on buses, bus routes, and SkyTrain;
- providing comments to the Major Civic Building Project Coordination Committee (MCBPCC) on the new Edmonds Fire Station (in 2002, the Access Advisory Committee established more formal links with the MCBPCC in order to be involved in the planning stages of new or to be renovated civic facilities);
- reviewing plans and providing comments on the phased renovation/expansion of the Metropolis Shopping Centre;
- attending the Forum on Accessible Transportation in Greater Vancouver sponsored by the Committee for the Promotion of Accessible Conventional Transit (ComPACT);
- meeting with representatives of SPARC BC and participating in their Community Accessibility Contacts Initiative;
- participating in TransLink's accessible trolley bus service planning initiative;
- touring and reviewing the accessibility features of the new Pattison Wing of Vancouver General Hospital with members of the City of Vancouver's Special Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (SACDI);
- reviewing routes and assisting with efforts to improve access into City Hall (e.g., placement of signage, improvements to pedestrian signal control buttons at Canada Way and Norland Avenue and installation of "call assistance" buttons on the walls outside the wheelchair accessible elevator in the main foyer of City Hall);
- participating in the preparation of interim adaptable housing guidelines; and
- reviewing licensing requirements for wheelchair accessible taxis.

### **3.0 PROPOSED 2004 WORKPLAN**

The following list represents a range of accessibility issues that the Access Advisory Committee anticipates addressing in 2004:

- coordinating accessibility renovations to City facilities;

- assisting staff with the review of the City's accessible housing policy, which has been requested by the Housing and Social Issues Committees;
- reviewing accessible transportation services (e.g., accessible buses and routes, wheelchair accessible taxi service, HandyDart);
- monitoring designated parking (e.g., regulation of designated parking, adequacy of designated parking standards, public education on the importance of complying with designated parking regulations);
- assessing the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TTY, hearing aid and volume control telephones, and any necessary public education associated with them (e.g. articles in InfoBurnaby); and
- promoting Access Awareness Day on Saturday, June 5, 2004.

Details on the proposed workplan are *attached* as Appendix 1.

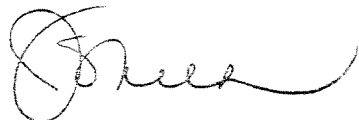
Acknowledging the constraints on Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that the Committee may not be able to address all the foregoing issues in 2004. The Committee's priorities are coordination of access renovations for City facilities, participation in a review of accessible housing guidelines and requirements, and monitoring of accessible transportation service delivery. The costs associated with the implementation of the workplan are expected to be minimal. The incidental costs will be covered through the Planning Department's budget.

From time to time, other issues of interest to BAAC may arise. Should any of these issues involve potential activities which would significantly deviate from the proposed workplan, staff will advise the Social Issues Committee before taking action.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has accomplished much since its establishment in 1988. Implementation of the workplan outlined in section 3.0 and detailed in Appendix 1 of this report will continue the City's commitment to ensuring access to facilities and services for all Burnaby residents.

This report is presented for information.



J.S. Belhouse, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM/sla  
Attachment

cc: City Manager  
Director Engineering  
Director Finance  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Officer-in-Charge, RCMP

## BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 2004 WORKPLAN

This workplan consists of a wide range of accessibility initiatives which Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee is interested in pursuing. Acknowledging constraints on resources and staff time, the Committee may not be able to undertake them all in 2004. The Committee's priorities for 2004 are coordination of access renovations for City facilities, participation in a review of accessible housing guidelines and requirements, and monitoring the adequacy of accessible transportation.

### **Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities**

The Committee will act as a resource to City departments in setting priorities for accessibility improvements to City facilities. \$50,000 is contained in the Planning Department's Provisional Capital Budget for access renovations and is being advanced for Council's consideration as part of the 2004 Annual Capital Program. The Committee will also ensure that the website copy of the Burnaby Access Guidebook is updated to reflect new accessibility improvements.

### **Accessible Housing Policy Guidelines**

The Committee will participate in a review of the City's accessible housing policy. A review of the policy has been requested by the Housing and Social Issues Committees. The Committee will build on the work it completed to develop interim accessible housing guidelines.

### **Accessible Transportation**

The Committee will continue to liaise with TransLink and consumer advocates such as ComPACT (Committee for the Promotion of Accessible Conventional Transit) regarding accessible transit service delivery. The Committee will also continue to keep apprised of accessible taxi service in Burnaby.

### **Designated Parking**

The Committee will monitor the adequacy of designated parking standards in Burnaby and keep informed of changes in parking standards in other local municipalities. It will also continue its public education campaign to raise awareness in the community of the consequences for persons with disabilities when others park in designated spaces. The Committee will keep abreast of the parking-related activities of other organizations, such as the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, in order to complement their activities.

### **Audible Pedestrian Traffic Signals, Curb Cuts, Sidewalk Improvements, On-street Designated Parking and Snow Removal**

The Committee will continue to monitor the provision/need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, on-street designated parking and special considerations during snow removal, and forward any suggestions for improvements to the Burnaby Engineering Department. The Committee will also endeavour to provide any necessary public education associated with these needs and services (e.g. articles in InfoBurnaby).

### **Telephone Service**

The Committee will continue to promote the provision of accessible telephone service for people with disabilities including telephones with volume control, hearing-aid compatibility and teletype technology for the hearing impaired as well as wheelchair accessible telephones.

### **Access Awareness Day**

The Committee will request Council to proclaim Access Awareness Day in 2004 and will undertake awareness-raising activities in conjunction with the Day.

